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CIRCULATION OF THE *PUBLICATIONS* OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

In November, 1888, a copy of volume I of the *Publications* of the Lick Observatory was sent to a library in Boston. A letter lately received states that during the past year it has been taken out by eighty-seven persons, and that nineteen others are registered to receive it in their turn! If the whole edition is read as faithfully, the work will have been useful. E. S. H.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Dr. GEORGE F. BECKER, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has done the Observatory a great service by depositing in its library the following volumes from his private collections:

CRELLE: *Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik*; Vols. 1 (1826) to 15, inclusive; parts of 16 and 18; Vols. 20 to 68, inclusive. [The Observatory set begins with Vol. 100.]

GILBERT: *Annalen der Physik*; complete, 1799–1824; Vols. 1 to 76, inclusive, with index.

THOMSON & TAIT: *Handbuch der Theoretischen Physik*; Vol. 1; two parts.

LAGRANGE: *Œuvres de Lagrange*; [Government edition of 1867]; Vols. I, II.

LAPLACE: *Œuvres de Laplace*; [Government edition of 1843]; Vols. I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII (bound in 4.)

These books are to remain on our shelves as a permanent loan, until recalled by their owner. The list is given here in order that members of the Society may know of the existence of these works in one of the libraries of the Pacific Coast. Some of them are also to be found in the University Library, Berkeley. E. S. H.

PROBABLE RETURN OF LEXELL'S COMET.

The news of a remarkable and extremely important discovery in cometary astronomy, made by Mr. S. C. CHANDLER—so well known as a mathematician and astronomer—has just been received. Mr. CHANDLER has just completed a preliminary examination into certain peculiarities of the orbit of the comet discovered in July last by Mr. BROOKS, and which is still under observation.

This comet has been found to revolve in an elliptical orbit about the sun in seven years. It has attracted particular attention through